

NEW INFORMATION ON ARRESTS IN UKRAINE

New York, November 23, 1966 (Prolog) — Prolog Research and Publishing Association, Inc. makes available further information regarding mass arrests and trials of cultural leaders in the UkrSSR. These latest verified facts are an addition to the information released by Prolog September 16, 1966.

In the September news release 17 names were listed as well as the terms of imprisonment for each in years and months.

Today, Prolog adds three names bringing the list to 20 individuals and adds further information about the convicted persons.

Most of those convicted are serving their time in prisons or hard labor camps of the Soviet Union but outside the borders of Ukraine. Some have been freed without trials, or released after serving short terms.

Imprisoned.

On the basis of acquired information the following are serving time in prisons or corrective-labor institutions of the severe discipline:

1. Yaroslav Bohdanovich HEVRYCH - student from Kiev - 5 years;
2. Ivan Andriyovych HEL' - laborer, evening school student in Lviv - 3 1/2 years;
3. Bohdan Mykolayevich HORYN' - research worker of the Lviv State Museum of Ukrainian Art, literary critic, art critic, author of a series of articles, reviews and critiques, published between 1960-1965 in the magazine Zhovten', Prapor, Zmina and in the newspapers Molod' Ukrainskyy and Literaturna Ukraina - 4 years;
4. Mykhaylo Mykolayevich HORYN' - psychologist, specialist in industrial psychology, from Lviv - 6 years;
5. Opanas Ivanovych ZALYVAKHA - journalist and artist from Ivano-Frankivsk, illustrator of books, such as Syrts'ka Dolya by Bol. Prus - 5 years;
6. Dmytro Polikarpovich IVASHCHENKO - lecturer of Ukrainian literature, candidate of philological studies, chairman of a branch of the Union of Writers of Ukraine in Luts'k - 2 years;
7. Svyatoslav Yosypovich KARAVANS'KYY - philologist, poet, translator, and journalist from Odessa - convicted in 1944 and sentenced to 25 years of concentration camp, freed in 1957 after serving half of his term, arrested in 1965 and sent without trial to Mordovskaya A.S.S.R to serve the second half of his sentence despite the fact that according to the new law the highest term does not exceed 15 years. In 1965 his articles appeared in the magazines Zhovten', Phizkultura i Sport, and Znannya ta Pratsya. (His article in the magazine Znannya ta Pratsya, No. 10, dated Oct. 29, 1966 — entitled "Excursion to the Laboratory", ends with the note "To be continued" but so far it has not.)
8. Yivha Fedorivna KUZNYETSOVA - research assistant (laboratory) from Kiev - 3 years;
9. Oleksander MARTYNENKO - engineer from Kiev - 3 years;
10. Mykhaylo Savych MASIUTKO - pensioner from Lviv, literary scholar, author of the article "Ivan Franko Figher for the Freedom and Unity of the Ukrainian Nation", which appeared in the Oct. 1964 issue of Dnipro magazine - 6 years;
11. Valentyna MOROZ - historian from Luts'k - 4 years;
12. Mykhaylo OZERNYY - research worker, translator from Ivano-Frankivsk - 3 years;
13. Mykhaylo H. OSADCHYY - literary scholar and critic, author of articles about Ostap Vyshnya in the magazine Zhovten' during 1962-64 and of a dissertation about Ostap Vyshnya which he presented for his candidacy in philological studies, lecturer at the Lviv State University - 4 years;
14. Anatoliy SHEVCHUK - a young prose writer from Zhytomyr; his works appeared in Literaturna Ukraina in 1962, in the magazine Zhovten', No. 9, 1965 and others - 4 years

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

74-12-4

23 Nov 66

RELEASED

Among those arrested in the years 1965-1966 the following, besides the critics Ivan DZYUBA and Ivan SVITLYCHNYY, have been released after the trial or after having served their term:

15. Maria ZVARYCHEVSKA - archivist at the Lviv Oblast Archives - 8 months imprisonment, freed after serving the term;

16. Mykhaylo Vasylovych KOSIV - lecturer of Ukrainian Literature at the Lviv State University, literary critic, freed from imprisonment due to a heart condition, currently unemployed;

17. Ivan RUSYN - worker at the Kiev Research Institute of Geophysics - 3 years imprisonment, freed in the summer of 1966;

Information concerning three more individuals is lacking. They are:

18. Mykola HRYN' - research worker at the Institute of Geophysics at the UkrSSR Academy of Science in Kiev - 3 years imprisonment;

19. HERETA - a scholar at the Ternopil Etnographic Museum - 4 years imprisonment;

20. CHUBATYY - teacher at the Ternopil Music School - 4 years imprisonment.

ARTICLE 62.

All those named in the above list were tried under Article 62 of the UkrSSR Criminal Code which states "Any agitation or propaganda with the intent to undermine or subvert the Soviet regime, participation in certain specific and particularly dangerous crimes against the state, dissemination with the same intent of slanderous inventions against the Soviet state and its social system, as well as distribution, preparation or possession to the above end of literature with such content are punishable by the loss of freedom for term from six months to seven years or banishment for terms from two to five years. The above actions, if committed by persons previously convicted for serious crimes against the state or of crimes committed in time of war, are punishable by imprisonment for terms from three to ten years".

INFORMATION CONFIRMED.

To date the Soviet press has kept silent about the arrests and trials conducted in Ukraine, and consequently does not deny them. However, our information was confirmed by statements of two Soviet poets, Ivan DRACH and Dmytro PAVLYCHKO who are at present in New York as members of the UkrSSR Delegation to the 21st Session of the U.N. General Assembly. Their statements are discussed in a separate commentary by PROLOG.

COMMENTARY.

MEMBERS OF THE UkrSSR DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFIRM THE ARRESTS IN UKRAINE.

New York: — Two Soviet Ukrainian poets, Ivan Drach and Dmytro Pavlychko, who arrived in the USA on September 20, 1966 as members of the UkrSSR Delegation to the 21st Session of the U.N. General Assembly, have confirmed during their public appearances in New York the recent arrests and trials of Ukrainian cultural figures in the UkrSSR. These facts were reported on September 16 in a news release of the Prolog Research and Publishing Association, Inc.

On September 24 this year during the appearance of both poets at an affair, arranged by the progressive League of American Ukrainians, Dmytro Pavlychko gave a positive answer to the question raised by the editor of the newspaper Ukrains'ki Visti, Leon Tolopko, concerning the veracity of reports in the "nationalist" press in the USA and Canada about the arrests and trials in Ukraine. Dmytro Pavlychko then went on to say that in fact 23 persons have been arrested for "anti-Soviet activities", among them

Svyatoslav Karavans'kyy, a former ... Gestapo agent in Odessa.

Ivan Drach gave a fuller account of the reasons for the arrest in Ukraine at a literary evening arranged by the Ukrainian Round Table Club of New York on November 11, 1966. After a preliminary consultation with Dmytro Pavlychko, Ivan Drach said, among other things, the following in answer to the questions about the arrests; "This question and the answer to this question are extremely painful for us and personally for myself since among those arrested are my friends. Among those that I personally know who are at present under arrest are Bohdan Horyn', a literary and art critic from Lviv, Panas Zalyvakha an artist from Ivano-Frankivs'k, Mykhaylo Horyn' (brother of Bohdan Horyn') a psychologist, and many other people whom I do not know personally. These people are presented /here/ only as fighters for Ukrainian culture and the Ukrainian language. The case, however, is a bit more complicated...

"The thing is, that persons formerly connected with clandestine nationalist organizations in Ukraine, connected even with the German Gestapo, were in the circle of these people... It goes to the point that direct propaganda against our system, against our way of life was launched; that documents dealing with the nature of our system, with its hostility to everything Ukrainian, with the red fascism rampant in our country, etc. were passed around in typewritten copies which were sent or carried to different parts of Ukraine.

"Another thing, though... It would seem to me, that, perhaps, the Soviet regime in Ukraine should not feel so insecure that it could not, perhaps, instead of arresting them, conduct some kind of civic trial instead... I feel that especially at this time when we are approaching the fiftieth anniversary of Soviet rule ... well, we shall do everything possible to obtain speedy release of people such as Bohdan Horyn' or Panas Zalyvakha, people who were least involved in these actions..."

The other participant at the literary evening of the Round Table Club, Dmytro Pavlychko, denied the fact of Russification in Ukraine, stating that no Russification exists there and that if it manifests itself sporadically, the responsibility for it falls on "idiots and bureaucrats".

In connection with this kind of "explanation" and "statements", Prolog Research and Publishing Association considers it its duty to state the following:

All the cultural figures named in the Prolog news release of September 16, 1966 were convicted for defending the rights guaranteed the Ukrainian people by the Constitution of the UkrSSR, and more specifically for the defense of the Ukrainian language as the official state language, for the defense of Ukrainian culture, for the defense of freedom of speech and opinion and for protesting intensified Russification in Ukraine. The defendants stated their position in these matters clearly and openly in their letters to the CC CPU and to the prosecutor of the UkrSSR as well as in their statements at the time of the trials. None of the defendants were tried for belonging to underground nationalist organizations, which is proven by the fact that all were prosecuted under Article 62 of the UkrSSR Criminal Code which applies only to "distributing, preparing or possessing" literature with the intent to disseminate slanderous inventions detrimental to the Soviet state and its social system. /Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR, Kiev: State Political Literature Publishing House, 1961, p. 32. /

The allegation by I. Drach that among those arrested were persons "connected even with the German Gestapo" and the statement by D. Pavlychko that Svyatoslav Karavans'kyy, twice tried and convicted in Odessa, was a "Gestapo agent", sound strange and rather pitiful. They smack of the familiar theory and terminology which has been and still is being used by all kinds of Moscow-inspired "security organs" and their chauvinists who always try to attach to Ukrainians and their aspirations the label of German, Vatican, British or American secret service. Dmytro Pavlychko as a member of the editorial board of Zhovten', the magazine which prior to his last arrest had published articles by Svyatoslav Karavans'kyy, should be especially careful with such "statements".

The allegation that the persons arrested in Ukraine were involved in the criminal activities of copying and spreading material critical of, or hostile to the Soviet system is rather absurd, considering that the constitutions of the USSR and of the UkrSSR guarantee their citizens freedom of speech, press and opinion. It is not the fault of Ukrainian patriots (the non-partisan as well as the Communist Party members) that the questions pertaining to preservation and defense of the natural rights and freedoms of Ukraine and its citizens can be raised only in writing created and distributed clandestinely and without official approval; the Soviet regime and its organs which deprive citizens of their rightful freedom of speech and opinion and suppress the least expression of free thought, are here at fault.

How the freedom of creative expression fares in the light of these conditions will be apparent from these facts: Lina Kostenko, a Ukrainian poetess, is no longer a member of the editorial board of the magazine Dnipro; here poems which were announced for publication, continue to be ignored by the Soviet press; the editors of Zhovten' were obliged to castigate themselves for publishing works of Bohdan I. Antonych "permeated with mysticism and apolitical sentiments", along with a poem by another poet entitled "Green Joy of Grass", which has for its "leading motif preaching of unrelieved sadness and pessimism". /Zhovten' No. 9, 1966 /

The statement of Dmytro Pavlychko to the effect that at the present Ukraine is undergoing ... Ukrainianization, and that the Soviet regime approves of this, smacks of the worst kind of mockery. The real situation is just the opposite, a fact known to all, including Dmytro Pavlychko. The truth of the matter is that undisguised and rapacious Russian chauvinism is rampant today in Ukraine. Chauvinistic dominance in Ukraine is not on the wane; on the contrary, it is steadily waxing. The remnants of autonomy and "socialistic sovereignty" of the UkrSSR are being liquidated by conversion of the more important ministries of the republic into the Union-Republic government bodies. To insist, as does D. Pavlychko, that the responsibility for Russification falls to "idiots and bureaucrats" is to cover up, whether consciously or unconsciously, the real sources and forces behind this Russification, or in short, the anti-Ukrainian policy of the Party and the Government. We all realize as well that a single official decree in this matter of Ukrainianization would suffice to end once and for all the power of "idiots and bureaucrats" who for the last fifty years have been suppressing the natural rights of the Ukrainian people for independence and sovereignty.

No less of a mockery that the statement of D. Pavlychko concerning Ukrainianization, was the stand he took recently in his official capacity as a member of the UkrSSR delegation to the General Assembly Session at the Fourth Committee meeting on November 17, on the issue of ... the rampant British colonialism in Aden, condemning the "inhuman regime" of the British "imperialists" for subjecting Aden patriots to incarceration. The Pavlychko's speech has a some-what symbolic ring in the light of his own confirmation of the arrests and secret trials in the Ukrainian SSR. We shall leave open the question of why the leaders of the foreign policy of the USSR deemed it proper to assign the defense of Aden precisely to Dmytro Pavlychko.

We rejoice at the promise made by I. Drach and D. Pavlychko to the effect that they will do everything in their power to secure a speedy release of some persons currently under arrest; we hope that this should happen in fact. In connection with this, however, we should like to express the wish that their efforts would apply equally to all those arrested and not merely to personal friends, Party members or those "least involved". To divide all those arrested and condemned Ukrainians into groups of "friends" and "enemies", Party members and persons close to the Party on one hand, and "criminals" with a record of former affiliation with Ukrainian nationalist organizations on the other, to regard them as more or less "guilty" would be consistent with the old concepts of Russian chauvinist policy toward the Ukrainian people, which having been launched from the principle of "divide and conquer", seeks to destroy those whom it divides.